

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1.-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A wellbore fluid comprising:

an aqueous fluid;

a viscostic surfactant;

a thickener soluble in the aqueous fluid,

wherein the thickener has a hydrophobic oligomeric or polymeric backbone made from

the reaction of alkene monomer or alkyne monomer, or mixtures thereof, and

wherein zwitterionic surfactant functional groups are attached to the hydrophobic

backbone, ~~wherein the surfactant functional group is selected from: a zwitterionic~~

~~surfactant functional groups, anionic surfactant functional groups, cationic~~

~~surfactant functional groups, and nonionic surfactant functional groups; and,~~

wherein the thickener has a molecular ~~confirmation~~ conformation such that the surfactant

functional groups are hydrophilic and the hydrophobic oligomeric or polymeric

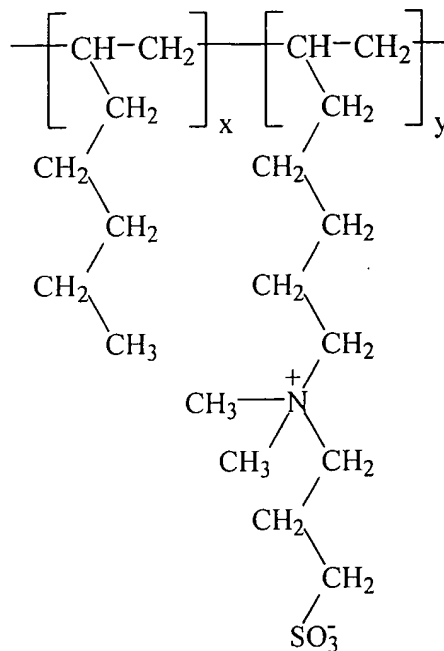
backbone is hydrophobic; and

wherein the combination of viscoelastic surfactant and thickener form micellar

assemblies such that the wellbore fluid thickener develops viscoelastic

characteristics, and

wherein the thickener has the following structure:



wherein $x + y = 2$ to 300,000.

11. (Original) The wellbore fluid of claim 10 wherein $x + y = 2$ to 36.
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Previously Presented) The wellbore fluid of claim 10 wherein the viscoelastic surfactant is selected from the following: anionic, nonionic, amphoteric, zwitterionic, alcohols, alkanolamides, alkanolamines, alkylaryl sulfonates, alkylaryl sulfonic acids, amine acetates, amine oxides, amines, sulfonated amines, sulfonated amides, betaines, block polymers, carboxylated alcohols, alkylphenol ethoxylates, carboxylic acids, fatty acids, ethoxylated alcohols, ethoxylated alkylphenols, ethoxylated amines, ethoxylated amides, ethoxylated fatty acids, ethoxylated fatty esters, fatty esters, fluorocarbon-based surfactants, glycerol esters, glycol esters, heterocyclic surfactants, imidazolines, isethionates, lanolins, lecithins, methyl esters, monoglycerides, olefin sulfonates, phosphate esters, polyethylene glycols, polysaccharides, polyacrylic acids, polyacrylamides, propoxylated alcohols, propoxylated alkylphenols, propoxylated amines, propoxylated amides, propoxylated fatty acids, propoxylated fatty esters, protein-based surfactants, quaternary surfactants, sarcosamines, silicone-based surfactants,

soaps, sodium isethionate, sorbitans, sucrose and glucose esters, sulfates and sulfonates of oils and fatty acids, sulfates and sulfonates of ethoxylated alkylphenols, sulfates of alcohols, sulfates of ethoxylated alcohols, sulfates of fatty esters, sulfonates of hydrocarbons and petroleum, sulfosuccinates, taurates, and tridecyl and dodecyl benzene sulfonic acids and mixtures thereof.

15.-30. (Cancelled).

31. (Previously Presented) The wellbore fluid of claim 10 wherein the oligomers or polymers are crosslinked with polyvalent metal ions, formaldehyde, or glutaraldehyde.

32. (Original) The wellbore fluid of claim 31 wherein the polyvalent metal ions are selected from the following: Fe^{2+} , Cd^{2+} , Co^{2+} , Ca^{2+} , UO_2^{2+} , PbO^{2+} , Al^{3+} , Fe^{3+} , Cr^{3+} , Ce^{3+} , Ti^{4+} , Zr^{4+} , Sn^{4+} and mixtures thereof.

33. (Currently Amended) A method of making a wellbore fluid comprising blending:

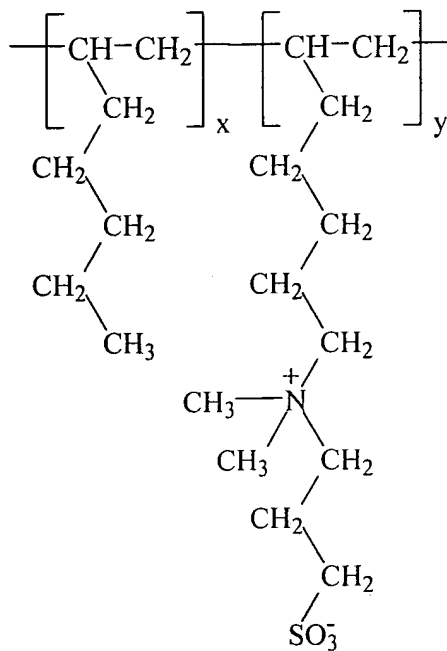
an aqueous fluid phase;

a viscoelastic surfactant;

a water-soluble inorganic salt;

an oligomer or polymer soluble in an aqueous salt solution, the oligomer or polymer comprising a hydrophobic oligomeric or polymeric backbone made from the oligomerization or polymerization of alkene or alkyne monomer groups, or mixtures thereof, the oligomer or polymer further comprising zwitterionic functional groups attached to the hydrophobic backbone, wherein the oligomer or polymer is hydrophilic in the zwitterionic functional groups and hydrophobic in the backbone hydrocarbon chain to form micellar assemblies such that the oligomers or polymers develop viscoelastic character prior to a polymerization step,

wherein the ~~thickener~~ oligomer or polymer has the following structure:



wherein $x + y = 2$ to 300,000.

34.-36. (Cancelled)